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**Annual Report of M.O.H.**

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ANNUAL (SURVEY) REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ending 31st December 1925.

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To
The Urban District Council of MARKET DRAYTON.

Market Drayton U.D.C.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report upon the health of your District for the year 1925.

The Birth rate for the year was 19'3 per 1000 of the population compared with 21, the average Rate for the previous five years, and with 18'9 the Rate for England and Wales in 1925.

The Death Rate of 16'4 is higher than the average 15'3 for the preceding five years, and much higher than the Rate for England and Wales for 1925 of 12'2. Our high Rate is due to the decease of a larger number than usual of persons of the age of 70 and upwards. Very nearly half of the total deaths (38 out of 77) exceeded that age. The chief causes of death were Heart disease 14, Cancer 8, Bronchitis 11, pneumonia 6, Influenza 5, Tuberculosis of the lungs 3, Old Age 8, Cerebral hæmorrhage 5, premature birth 3. Violence 1. Suicide 1.

Infant Mortality.

The Rate per 1000 Births is 78'3 and compares favourably with the average Rate for the preceding five years of 87'1. The Rate for England and Wales in 1925 was 75. Three of the seven infants that died were born prematurely, three died from pneumonia and one from Whooping Cough. In November 1924 I made a special Report upon the high rate of Infant Mortality in the District.

Housing.

The 100 houses of the Council Housing Scheme have now (August 1926) been completed and all are occupied. Five old houses in the Town Well district of Little Drayton had been condemned as unfit for human habitation. The owners considered that to render the houses fit for habitation was not an economic proposition. The Council could not order the demolition of the

demolition of the houses because the tenants had nowhere to go. A Housing Trust was formed, the five houses and six others were taken over from the owners. Two of them will be pulled down, the others will be put in tenantable repair, and two new houses are to be built. The formation of the Trust, which is purely philanthropic in its aims, was initiated by the generosity of an anonymous and other donors, supplemented by a subscription list. The capital of the Trust is about £3,000.

Other important Actions considered to be necessary in the future.

The carrying out of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.
The establishment of a public slaughter house or Abattoir.
Inspection of animals before Slaughter and of the carcases after slaughter.
Compulsory use of the humane killer.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ARCHIBALD MCQUEEN.

8th September 1926.

# A P P E N D I X .

## Natural and social conditions of the area.

Area (in acres) 1,213.

Population (Census 1921) 4,[illegible]. (Estimated 1[illegible]) 4,[illegible].

### Physical features and general character of the area.

The Urban District of Market Drayton was constituted on 1st April 1914 by separation from the Drayton Rural District. It is surrounded by the Drayton and Moreton Heath Rural Districts and has an area of 1213 acres, comprising the parishes of Market Drayton and Little Drayton. The general elevation varies from about 230 to 350 feet above sea level. The subsoil is the red marl of the new red sandstone. The town of Market Drayton occupies the central and higher part of the district. The general fall of the ground being from north to south, the natural drainage is to the River Tern which rounds the district on the east and south. An ancient and important market town, it is the centre of a large and fertile agricultural district, with a weekly cattle auction, a monthly cheese fair, and an annual horse fair. There are two iron foundries, a large flour mill, gas works, electric light and power works, a creamery and a steam laundry. The public institutions are the Town Hall, Cottage Hospital, County Grammar School and the National School. An elementary school on the most modern lines has been recently erected at Little Drayton by the County Council. The Union Institution, and the Joint Isolation Hospital are also in Little Drayton parish.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 1,217.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 1,206.

Rateable value £[illegible],[illegible].

Sum represented by a penny rate £106.

## Vital Statistics.

Marriages - Total 44. Marriage Rate [illegible].

| Births :- | Total. | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 85. | 36. | 49.) | Birth Rate 1[illegible]'3. |
| Illegitimate | 6. | 5. | 1.) | |

| Deaths :- | Total. | M. | F. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 77. | 33. | 44. | Death Rate 16'4. |

Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child birth - Nil.

Deaths of infants, under one year of age, per 1000 births :-

Legitimate (6) 65'9. Illegitimate (1) 10'8. Total 76'7.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years) Nil.

## Amount of Poor Law Relief.

The Cost of Poor Law Relief in the Drayton Union (which includes Drayton and Blore Heath rural districts and Market Drayton Urban District) during the year ended 31st March 1924 was - (a) Institutional relief £1261; average cost per head per week 8/5. (b) Outdoor Relief £726; average per head per week of 8/8; average per case per week 8/7. ( Persons relieved 3/3;

## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

### Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A fever hospital for the isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria situate at Little Drayton is available for and supported by the District, and the Rural Districts of Drayton and Blore Heath. The Hospital has four wards with 16 beds. An ambulance is stationed at the hospital. An Isolation Hospital for cases of Smallpox, at Wellington, is available for the District. A motor ambulance is provided.

## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).
Sanitary Inspector.

## Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Market Drayton Branch of the Shropshire Nursing Federation supplies two Nurses for the District. Their services are available for Midwifery, Maternity and Infant Welfare, School inspection and general nursing. Their earnings are supplemented by voluntary subscriptions.

## Midwives.

No Midwives are directly employed by the Urban Council. The number practising in the District varies, but besides the District nurse, three or four are generally available, and all are under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

## Legislation in Force.

Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted 3rd March 1891.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## Water.

Market Drayton and Little Drayton are supplied by the Market Drayton Water Company, with water excellent in quality and ample in quantity. The supply is constant, and is derived from springs and a reservoir near the Burnt Woods (471 feet above sea level) The Water is laid on directly to the houses. Over 1300 houses are supplied. Only a few houses still depend for their supply on pump wells.

## Rivers and Streams.

The River Tern continues to be polluted by the untreated sewage of Market Drayton at its outfall.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewage of Market Drayton falls into the River Tern after passing through a settling tank. A scheme for the sewerage and the treatment of the sewage was prepared by a Sanitary Engineer in 1912. The estimated cost of the scheme was £38,000. Another scheme was proposed by the Parish Council to cost about £14,000. Both schemes were abandoned on the outbreak of the war. A Scheme for Little Drayton was carried out in 1902-3, and a Lucat bacterial filter for treatment of the sewage was erected. The filter was inspected by members of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, in October 1904. The filter worked satisfactorily for about ten years, when it became clogged and inefficient. In 1914 the upper strata of the filter were washed and replaced, after which the filter acted more satisfactorily again for two or three years, but at the present timeit is not efficient for its purpose. Nothing further has been done in view of the prospect of the main sewers of Little Drayton being connected with the new scheme for Market Drayton. Plans and estimates for this new scheme have been prepared. The sewage disposal works are to be erected at the Victoria Mill now in the possession of the Council.

## Closet Accommodation.

At the end of the year there were 1115 water closets and 250 privies. Since the constitution of the District in 1914 the number of privies converted into water closets is 138.

## Scavenging.

A weekly collection of house refuse has been in force since 1911.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of houses which have been inspected either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a

| | |
|---|---|
| Systematic survey... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 58. |
| Number of informal notices sent. ... ... ... ... ... | 18. |
| Number of legal notices sent ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3. |
| Number of informal notices complied with ... ... ... | 20. |
| Number of letters written .. ... ... ... ... ... ... | 148. |

Particulars of sanitary matters referred to in the above notices :-

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Houses to be disinfected after infectious disease... | 28. |
| (b) Deficient or objectionable water supply..... | 8. |
| (c) New drains to be constructed or old amended..... | 11. |
| (d) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition..... | 11. |
| (e) Offensive accumulations of all kinds..... | 1 |
| (f) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance..... | 1. |
| (g) Houses overcrowded..... | 3. |

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ..... 3.
" " in cases of phthisis ..... 2.
Privies converted to water closets ..... 5.
Plans for new houses passed ..... 2.
Houses connected to public water supply ..... 8.
Houses connected to public sewerage ..... 5.
Lengths of new water mains laid .....300 yards

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Lodging-houses, bakehouses, and slaughterhouses are regularly inspected, cleaned and disinfected.
No underground bakehouses or sleeping places are in use in the District.

## Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register..... 14.
" " premises - Cowsheds ..... 11.
Dairies ..... 0.
Milkshops..... 3.
Number of Inspections..... 38.
Defects found in Cowsheds :-

(a) Drainage ..... 1.
Number of notices - verbal and written ..... 1.
Number of these notices complied with..... 1.

## HOUSING STATISTICS for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) :- 0.
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :-
~~(a) Tot~~ (1) By the Local Authority. -
(2) By other bodies or persons -

### (1) Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection :-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under public Health or Housing Acts ..... 31.
(2) Number which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Inspection of District Regulations 1910 ..... 31.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... 12.
(4) Number (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... 12.

### (2) Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... 19.

### (3) Action under Statutory Powers.

Nil.

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

### Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the five years Survey period 1921 - 1925, the following cases of notifiable Infectious disease were notified :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Scarlet fever..... | 34. |
| Diphtheria ..... | 33. |
| Pneumonia ..... | 19. |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum .... | 5. |
| Erysipelas ..... | 3. |
| Puerperal fever ..... | 1. |
| Encephalitis lethargica.. | 1. |
| | 89. |

Thirty one of the Scarlet fever, and twenty-two of the Diphtheria patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. There were no "Return" cases of Scarlet fever. One little girl had a second attack of Diphtheria a fortnight after her discharge from the hospital at the end of the first attack. No deaths occurred from Scarlet fever. Four cases of Diphtheria terminated fatally - two children because their parents did not call in a doctor until too late for Antitoxin treatment; a mother and her baby died from being infected by a son who had had Diphtheria at a school in Wales and was sent home supposed to be free from infection . All the cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum recovered without injury to sight. The case of puerperal fever recovered. The boy with Encephalitis lethargica died 13 days after notification.
Antitoxin has been used in all cases of Diphtheria. The cost of its administration is defrayed by the Council.
Bacteriological examination is made at Birmingham University of specimens from suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Enteric fever and Ringworm. No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet fever, nor of the artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.
No primary vaccinations or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox prevention) Regulations 1917.
The following statistics are given by the Vaccination Officer :-

Of the 91 children born and registered in 1925, 57 were successfully vaccinated, seven died unvaccinated, and 27 children remain unvaccinated because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination and made statutory declarations to that effect.

### Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in 1925.

| | Total cases notified. | Cases Admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Small-pox . . . . . | nil. | nil. | nil. |
| Scarlet-fever . . . . . | 13. | 10. | nil. |
| Diphtheria. . . . . | 4. | 4. | nil. |
| Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid) | nil | nil. | nil. |
| Puerperal fever . . . . | nil. | nil. | nil. |
| Pneumonia . . . . . | 2. | nil. | 9. |
| Other diseases, generally notifiable.. | nil. | nil. | nil. |
| " " notifiable locally..... | nil. | nil. | nil. |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. Pulmonary. M. | New Cases. Pulmonary. F. | New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. M. | New Cases. Non-Pulmonary. F. | Deaths. Pulmonary. M. | Deaths. Pulmonary. F. | Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. M. | Deaths. Non-Pulmonary. F. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0. | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5. | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45. | - | 2. | - | - | - | 1. | - | - |
| 55. | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 65 & upwards | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 1. | 2. | 1. | - | 1. | 1. | - | - |

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare centre was established and opened in October 1923. The average attendance per week is about 50. A new building for thecentre has been erectedin Longslow Road and will be opened shortly.

During the five years 1921-1925 there were no maternal deaths, one case of puerperal fever was notified and recovered; no death occurred from Measles but one from Whooping Cough and two from Diarrhoea. Four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified and all recovered :-

### Cases.

| Notified. | Treated. At Home. | Treated. In Hospital. | Vision. Unimpaired. | Vision Impaired. | Total Blindness. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | 1. | 3. | 4. | 0. | 0. | 0. |